Corazón, but that mountain is also getting largely exploited for them. In places at present unexplored by the Quitenos we found them abundant. They afford good sport, and their flesh is as fine as any that I have eaten. Local name "Perdriz."

XV.—Remarks on the Species of American Gallinæ recently described, and Notes on their Nomenclature. By W. R. Ogilvie-Grant.

Since the publication of the twenty-second volume of the 'Catalogue of Birds in the British Museum' in 1893 a number of new species and subspecies of American Gamebirds have been described. Below will be found a list of them, with remarks on and identifications of those which are not considered valid by the writer, and with his reasons for proposing to suppress them.

The numbers preceding the specific names are those used in the 'Catalogue of Birds': the position of the new species admitted as valid is indicated by such symbols as "1 A."

6. LAGOPUS LEUCURUS (Cat. B. xxii. p. 52).

Lagopus leucurus altipetens Osgood, Auk, xviii. p. 180 (1901) [Colorado].

I have compared three adult males in autumn plumage from Colorado (one being from Blaine's Peak, the typical locality of L. l. altipetens) with two males and a female in autumn plumage from the Cascade Mountains, and find them absolutely identical.

1. Canachites canadensis (op. cit. p. 69).

Canachites canadensis labradorius Bangs, P. N. Eng. Zoöl. Club, i. p. 47 (1899) [Labrador].

Canachites canadensis osgoodi Bishop, Auk, xvii. p. 114 (1900) [North-west Territory, Northern British Columbia, and Alaska north to the coast mountains].

Canachites canadensis (Linn.) Norton, Pr. Portland Soc. N. H. ii. p. 151 (1901) [Labrador and Hudson Bay].

Canachites canadensis canace (Norton) op. cit. p. 152 [Canada, Northern United States, and New Brunswick].

I. Mr. Bangs attempts to shew that the Canadian Grouse from Labrador differ constantly from birds obtained in Maine, and names the former C. c. labradorius. He states that the upper parts in the females of the former are much less suffused with buff or ochraceous throughout the plumage, and are more nearly grey and black.

He compares females killed between the 12th of July and the 9th of August, *i. e.* still in entire or partial worn breeding-plumage, with nearly freshly-moulted females from Maine shot between the 16th and 27th of August.

Our specimens shew that there is no difference in plumage which is not due to season or age. A female from Nipissing Dist., Ontario (September), and a female from Quebec (October), agree exactly with a female from Ungava (December); all three have the upper parts mostly black and grey, which was supposed to be characteristic of Labrador birds.

II. Mr. Bishop follows by separating the Canadian Grouse inhabiting N. British Columbia and Alaska from those met with in Maine.

He says the *female* of *C. c. osgoodi* in breeding-plumage differs from the females found in Maine in having all the bars on the plumage cream-buff and greyish white instead of ochraceous white.

Specimens in the British Museum Collection disprove this statement; for females from Nulato, Fort Simpson, and Jasper's House are indistinguishable from females from Maine and New Brunswick.

III. Lastly, Mr. Norton correctly points out that C. c. labradorius is a mere synonym of typical C. canadensis (Linn.), which was founded on birds from Hudson Bay; but he is of opinion that birds from New England and parts of Canada are distinct and should bear the name of C. c. canace (Linn.). As already stated, I cannot admit this distinction, all the alleged differences in plumage being fully accounted for by season or age, and being in no way dependent on locality.

The fine series of this Grouse in the British Museum appears to be much more complete than that at the disposal of the writers quoted above. I have also examined a number of specimens from the Tring Museum, which have been kindly lent me by Mr. Rothschild, and they tend to confirm my opinion.

## 1. Meleagris gallopavo (op. cit. p. 387).

Dr. Coues [cf. Auk, xiv. pp. 272-274 (1897)] agrees with the writer that the name "Meleagris gallopavo Linn." can only be used for the Mexican bird, and that M. mexicana Gould is merely a synonym. The Linnean name is founded chiefly on the figure in Albin's Nat. Hist. B. iii. p. 33, pl. 35 (1740), and "the Turkey Cock" there depicted agrees perfectly with Gould's type.

Mr. Nelson [Auk, xvii. p. 122 (1900)] says that "there is every reason to suppose" that "M. gallopavo Linn." should be referred to the birds from Vera Cruz, the only part of Mexico occupied by the Spaniards during the first few years of the conquest. I cannot see any possible ground for such a supposition; for, though Mexico was discovered in 1517, the City of Mexico captured in 1521, and the Turkey established in Europe by 1530, the fact remains that the "Turkey-Cock" figured by Albin in 1740, on which the Linnean name was founded, can only have been of West or North Mexican origin.

#### 1 A. MELEAGRIS GALLOPAVO INTERMEDIA.

Meleagris gallopavo var. intermedia Sennett, Bull. U.S. Geol. Surv. v. p. 428 (1879) [Rio Grande].

Meleagris gallopavo ellioti Sennett, Auk, ix. p. 167, pl. iii. (1892) [Rio Grande].

Meleagris ellioti Grant, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxii. p. 388 (1893) [Tamaulipas, E. Mexico, and Hidalgo, S.W. Texas].

Meleagris gallopavo merriami Nelson, Auk, xvii. p. 120 (1900) [Mountains of Arizona and Western New Mexico and south to the Mexican border].

In the 'Catalogue of Birds' I accidentally used the name *M. ellioti* for this form. Sennett, having given the Rio Grande

bird the name intermedia, had no right to withdraw this name in favour of ellioti.

Coues (Auk, xiv. p. 275) says:-"There is probably another change required in our nomenclature of this genus; certainly so, if, as some think, M. g. ellioti of Sennett, 1892, is synonymous with his M. g. intermedia of 1879."

There can be no question about these names being synonymous; Sennett clearly states that they are so, and both were founded on Rio Grande birds.

Mr. Nelson's M. g. merriami is also merely a synonym; but by contrasting his birds with examples of M. gallopavo (= mexicana Nelson) and M. americana (= fera Nelson) he would have us suppose that his "new subspecies" is very distinct. A comparison with M. intermedia (= yallopavoNelson), with which his birds are obviously synonymous, is avoided [cf. Auk, xviii. p. 310 (1901)].

#### 2. Meleagris americana (Cat. B. xxii. p. 389).

The Turkev question was discussed at some length by Dr. Coues in 1897 [Auk, xiv. pp. 272-275 (1897)].

Taking the 'Catalogue of Birds' he goes through all the older synonyms given there under the heading Meleagris americana. These names are as follows:-

Gallopavo sylvestris Catesby, Carol. i., App. p. xliv (1730); Brisson, Orn. v. p. 162 (1760).

Meleagris americana Bartram, Trav. p. 290 (1791) [Pennsylvania].

Meleagris palawa Barton, Med. & Phys. J. ii. pt. i. pp. 163-164 (1805) [United States].

Meleagris silvestris Vieill. N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. ix. p. 447 (1817).

Meleagris fera Vieill. Gal. Ois. ii. p. 10, pl. 201 (1825).

Coues states his reasons for rejecting the older names, but does not suggest which name, if any, should be substituted for M. americana. In 1899 (Auk, xvi. p. 77) he rectifies his previous omission and proposes the name Meleagris gallopavo fera. He also remarks "there occurs on p. 274 the typographical error of pera for fera in citing the Gal. Ois. ii.

1825, p. 10, pl. 201, and I inadvertently used the term sylvestris instead of fera in citing the Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. ix. 1817, p. 447."

It is a self-evident fact that Coues never looked up Vieillot's original reference, as, had he done so, he would have found "silvestris," as cited above.

Finally, Mr. Elliot puts the finishing touch to this statement (cf. Auk, xvi. p. 231). He writes:—"In the same number of 'The Auk' the name for our northern Turkey has been correctly given as M. fera Vieill., Nouv. Dict. 1817, p. 447, and not M. silvestris Vieill. as given by me in 'Game-Birds.' It may be interesting to state how I came to adopt that name, as Vieillot never described any Turkey as sylvestris... There was no copy of the 'Nouv. Dict.' available, and I could not delay the printer until I should be able to consult it, so, perforce, contrary to my established custom in such cases, I accepted the citation given in the B. M. Cat. Birds, xxii. p. 389, as correct, and was thus led astray."!!

This inaccurate statement needs no further comment.

I cannot see any objection to the employment of Bartram's name *M. americana*, for, though he gives no description, the name has been much used and can only refer to the Pennsylvanian bird. The only alternative is to use *Meleagris silvestris* Vieill.

## 1. Dendrortyx macrourus (op. cit. p. 392).

Dendrortyx oaxacæ Nelson, Auk, xiv. p. 43 (1897) [3, Totontepec, Oaxaca, Mexico].

Dendrortyx macrourus griseipectus Nelson, t. c. p. 44 [3, Huitzilac, Morelos, Mexico].

Dendrortyx macrourus striatus Nelson, t. c. p. 44 [ \copp , Chilpancingo, Guerrero, Mexico].

Dendrortyx macrourus dilutus Nelson, l. c. xvii. p. 254 (1900) [Patzcuaro, Michoacan, Mexico].

On apparently only four specimens of *Dendrortyx*—three males and a female from Oaxaca, Morelos, Michoacan, and Guerrero respectively—Mr. Nelson has founded as many new species and subspecies.

In company with Mr. F. D. Godman, I have very carefully read Mr. Nelson's descriptions and remarks, and have reexamined the specimens in the British Museum. Our series of D. macrurus, though small, is apparently more than twice as large as that at Mr. Nelson's disposal, and seems to shew beyond doubt that his supposed species and subspecies are untenable, and that the differences pointed out between the individuals have no geographical significance.

## 2. Lophortyx gambeli (Cat. B. xxii. p. 403).

Callipepla gambeli deserticola Stephens, Auk, xii. p. 371 (1895) [Colorado Desert, California].

Callipepla gambeli fulvipectus Nelson, Auk, xvi. p. 26 (1899) [Rio Mayo, Sonora, Mexico].

Of the first of these subspecies the Museum possesses typical male examples collected by Mr. Stephens himself in the Colorado Desert; of the second we have a female example from Hermosillo, Sonora. I am unable to see any reason whatever for separating these birds from typical *L. gambeli*.

LOPHORTYX LEUCOPROSOPON Reichenow, Orn. Monatsb. iii. pp. 10 and 97, woodcut,  $3 \circ (1895)$ ; Grant, Handb. Game-Birds, ii. p. 295 (1897).

This name was given by Dr. Reichenow to birds bred in captivity from parents of unknown origin. As suggested by him, the parents were probably hybrids, possibly between Lophortyx californicus and Eupsychortyx cristatus.

LOPHORTYX BENSONI Ridgw.; fide Sharpe, Hand-list Birds, i. p. 44 (1899) [Sonora].

I can find no published description of this species.

#### 1. OREORTYX PICTUS (op. cit. p. 397).

Oreortyx pictus Ridgway, Auk, xi. pp. 193-196, pl. vi. (1894); Grant, Ibis, 1894, p. 570.

After the remarks on the sexual and geographical variations of this species that have already appeared in the 'Auk' and 'Ibis' (vide supra), I am surprised to see that in the 'Handlist of Birds' [i. p. 44 (1899)] no less than three species of

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Mountain Partridge are admitted:—1. Oreortyx pictus (Dougl.); 2. O. plumiferus (Gould); and 3. O. confinis Anthony.

3. Eursychortyx sonnini (op. cit. p. 409).

Eupsychortyx pallidus Richmond, P. U. S. Nat. Mus. xviii. p. 657 (1896) [Margarita I., Venezuela].

This species is said to be "considerably paler" than E. sonninii.

Mr. Richmond admits having very scanty material for comparison (one male and one female). In a series of typical birds from Quonga, British Guiana, collected by H. Whitely, considerable variation is found in the plumage, some being much paler on the breast and some darker. This species was introduced into Mustique Island, Grenadines, W.I., about 1885, and there is a male in the British Museum collection procured on that island by D. W. Smith. It is very likely to have been introduced into Margarita Island. In any case the description does not lead one to believe that Mr. Richmond has much faith in the validity of the species; and, after re-examining our specimens from British Guiana, I have no hesitation in regarding E. pallidus as a synonym of E. sonninii.

Colinus Less. Man. d'Orn. ii. p. 190 (1828) must stand in place of *Ortyx* Steph. in Shaw's Gen. Zool. xi. p. 376 (1819) [nec Oken, Lehrb. Nat. iii., Zool. pt. ii. p. 611 (1816): type, *Turnix sylvaticus* (Desf.)]\*.

1 B. ORTYX VIRGINIANUS subsp. b. TEXANUS (op. cit. p. 419). Colinus virginianus maculatus Nelson, Auk, xvi. p. 26 (1899) [from Tancanhuitz, San Luis Potosi, north to Victoria, and Jaumave Valley, Tamaulipas, Mexico].

\* [We fail to see why "Ortyx," which has, until recently, been the title of this well-known group, should be superseded by Colinus. It is the fact that "Ortyx" was casually mentioned by Oken in his 'Lehrbuch' as a synonym of Turnix, but it does not seem at all certain that Oken meant to propose "Ortyx" as a new generic term. At any rate it has never been used in place of Turnix. Let us give "Ortyx" the benefit of the doubt.—Edd.]

We have a series of birds from the area indicated, and Mr. Godman and I are both satisfied that Mr. Nelson's name is a mere synonym of the subspecies C. texanus.

2 A. Colinus Godmani Nelson, Auk, xiv. p. 45 (1897) [Jaltipan, Minatitlan, Coatzacoalcos, and shores of Lake Catemaco, Vera Cruz, Mexico]; xv. p. 120, pl. ii. (1898).

This species has nothing to do with *C. graysoni* Lawr., with which Mr. Nelson compares it; but is evidently nearly allied to *C. cubanensis*. The male appears to differ from that species chiefly in having the crown blackish, with brown and greyish edgings to the feathers; the sides, flanks, and belly chestnut, heavily margined with black and devoid of white spots; and the tertials spotted with white instead of buff.

The figure is somewhat misleading, as it conveys the impression that the entire belly is black; but we find from the description that this is not the case.

## 3. ORTYX PECTORALIS (Cat. B. xxii. p. 421).

Colinus graysoni nigripectus Nelson, Auk, xiv. p. 47 (1897) [Plains of Puebla, Mexico].

Colinus minor Nelson, Auk, xviii. p. 47 (1901) [Plains of Chiapas, near Palenque, and adjacent parts of Tabasco].

In the British Museum collection there are male examples of this species with the feathers of the under parts either uniform chestnut or narrowly fringed with black. The latter plumage apparently denotes the fully adult bird [cf. remarks on C. salvini, infra].

In my opinion there can be no doubt that both these names of Mr. Nelson's are synonyms of C. pectoralis. By almost invariably contrasting his supposed new birds with the species to which they are least nearly allied, "old friends" are made to appear in the guise of very distinct species. We cannot imagine that so excellent a field-naturalist as Mr. Nelson does this wilfully, and must therefore infer that such errors are due to insufficient knowledge of the subject and want of material. By referring to the various "Keys to the Species" given in the 'Catalogue of Birds,' xxii., Mr. Nelson would have escaped such absurdities as redescribing Cyrtonyx sallæi

under the name of C. merriami, and comparing it with

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5 A. Colinus Insignis Nelson, Auk, xiv. p. 46 (1897) [Valley of Comitan, Chiapas, and Nenton, Guatemala).

C. montezumæ!! [vide infrà].

The British Museum possesses a series of this species collected by W. B. Richardson at Comitan and in the Chiapas Plains in May 1897. The females agree perfectly with the description of the type female given by Mr. Nelson: the males, which have never been described, very closely resemble the males of C. ridgwayi Brewst.; but the plumage is throughout darker, the mantle and under parts are dark chestnut instead of pale chestnut, and the black on the chin and throat extends somewhat further down the fore-neck.

7 A. Colinus salvini Nelson, Auk, xiv. p. 45 (1897) [Tapachula and San Benito, Chiapas, Mexico].

We have a series of this species from San Benito. It is most nearly allied to O. atriceps Grant, from W. Mexico, but the male has the upper parts much darker and almost devoid of rufous markings, the chestnut which forms an ill-defined collar in O. atriceps on the nape and upper mantle being replaced by black, while in most specimens the dull chestnut feathers of the breast and belly are margined with black; it should be noted, however, that in some males the black margins are indistinct or even absent. These are perhaps immature birds. The female is much darker than the female of O. atriceps, and has the ground-colour of the under parts white instead of buff.

## 1. Cyrtonyx montezumæ (op. cit. p. 425).

Cyrtonyx montezumæ mearnsi Nelson, Auk, xvii. p. 255 (1900) [South-western Texas and the southern half of New Mexico and Arizona, ranging into N. Mexico].

We have examined a number of examples of this supposed subspecies, but neither Mr. Godman nor I have been able to see the slightest ground for separating it; the differences mentioned in the description, so far as we can see, have no real existence. Mr. Nelson thinks that he has discovered that the *Odonto*phorus meleagris Wagl. [cf. Isis, 1832, p. 278 (not p. 277 as stated in the Cat. Birds and copied by Nelson) is a species distinct from C. montezumæ.

He says:—"This Partridge (C. merriami) appears to be closely related to Odontophorus meleagris Wagler (Isis, 1832, p. 277), but differs in having the white spots of the flanks on a background of ashy gray instead of black. species it lacks the white collar on the neck, which in O. montezumæ separates the black of the throat from the chestnut of the breast. Heretofore O. meleagris has been placed as a synonym of O. montezumæ, but the discovery of C. merriami with the same general style of markings given for O. meleagris indicates that the latter is probably a well-marked species which has failed of recognition through lack of material. was described from Mexico and should take its proper place in ornithological literature." Now there cannot be the slightest doubt that O. meleagris Wagl. is a mere synonym of C. montezumæ. Either Mr. Nelson has not read Wagler's description or has failed to understand it. Wagler very clearly states that his bird has a white collar, for he writes: "fascia colli inferioris . . . . sericeo-alba." One can easily understand his describing the ground-colour of the flanks as black, for in some specimens they are dark greyish black.

## 2. Cyrtonyx sallæi (Cat. B. xxii. p. 427).

Cyrtonyx merriami Nelson, Auk, xiv. p. 48 (1897) [East slope of Mt. Orizaba, Vera Cruz].

There can be no doubt that *C. merriami* is a synonym of the beautiful species described in 1859 as *C. sallai*. The apparent absence of the white collar on the fore-neck dividing the black throat from the chestnut is probably partly due to the make of the skin, but in this species the white collar is always narrow and in one specimen before us is nearly wanting.

# 1. Dactylortyx thoracicus (op. cit. p. 429).

Dactylortyx thoracicus lineolatus (Gould) Nelson, Pr. Biol. Soc. Washington, xii. p. 66 (1898).

Dactylortyx chiapensis Nelson, ibid. [San Cristobal, Chiapas, and Santa Maria, Guatemala].

Dactylortyx devius Nelson, t. c. p. 68 [Forests of Western Jalisco].

With apparently only eight specimens of Dactylortyx available for comparison Mr. Nelson gives us a revision of this genus. He distinguishes three species and one subspecies, as follows:—

Dactylortyx thoracicus (Gambel). Two females examined, one being Gambel's type.

Dactylortyx thoracicus lineolatus (Gould). One male examined.

Dactylortyx chiapensis, sp. n. Four specimens, males and females, examined.

Dactylortyx devius, sp. n. One male examined.

Along with Mr. Godman, I have again examined the series of 23 specimens in the British Museum, and, after carefully going over Mr. Nelson's work, we can see no reason for recognising more than one species. All Mr. Nelson's "species" are to be found in the series from Guatemala alone. Specimens from Northern Yucatan are somewhat smaller and lighter in colour than those from other parts of Central America, but they do not appear sufficiently different to merit a distinct name, and in any case our series, a male and two females, is insufficient to decide the question.

1. Odontophorus guianensis subsp. a. marmoratus (Cat. B. xxii. p. 433).

Odontophorus castigatus Bangs, Auk, xviii. p. 356 (1901) [Chiriqui].

Mr. Bangs, in pointing out the distinctive characters between his O castigatus and O. marmoratus (Gould), says that in the latter the top of the head is light chestnut; but I have again examined Gould's type from Bogota and can assure him that this is not the case. The top of the head is dark brown; and our specimens from Chiriqui, though not perfectly adult, are undoubtedly of the same species as the birds from the United States of Colombia.

4 A. ODONTOPHORUS ATRIFRONS.

Odontophorus atrifrons Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. xiii. pp. 127-128 (1900).

Hab. Valparaiso, Sierra Nevada, U.S. Colombia, 4500-5500 feet.

This appears to be a distinct species most nearly allied to O. parambæ, which has been procured in Northern Ecuador and in Antioquia, U.S. Colombia. Certain parts of the description seem, however, to suggest that the bird under consideration may not be fully adult. Dr. Allen writes:—"The scapulars with the inner vanes black, broadly barred and edged with chestnut, with light shaft-stripes, and central portion of outer vane gray; . . . upper breast similar to the mantle (olivaceous gray, vermiculated with black), but varied slightly with buffy white, which takes the form of ill-defined apical spots on the lower border of this area; lower breast ochraceous rufous, with indistinct cross-bars and shaft-stripes of black."

#### 4 B. ODONTOPHORUS PARAMBÆ.

Odontophorus parambæ Rothsch. Bull. B. O. C. vii. p. vi (1898); Hartert, Nov. Zool. v. p. 505, pl. iii. fig. 1 (1898). Hab. Paramba, N. Ecuador; Antioquia, U.S. Colombia.

10. Опонторновия ситтатия (Cat. B. ххіі. р. 439).

Odontophorus consobrinus Ridgw. P. U. S. Nat. Mus. хvі.
р. 469 (1893) [Mirador, Vera Cruz, Mexico].

Mr. Ridgway's supposed species is unquestionably founded on two females pecimens of O. guttatus (Gould) and was correctly placed under the synonymy of that species in the Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxii. p. 439 (1893).

Crax sulcirostris Goeldi, Boll. Mus. Paraense, iii. no. 4, p. 409.

The description (translated) reads as follows:-

"A female which is of the same size as the preceding species (C. carunculata). A broad groove runs on each side of the beak from the nasal fossa to near its point. The tarsi resemble those of the preceding species, but are covered in

front with 11 or 12 scutes. The feathers from the front of the vertex to the nape are black, with two broad white bands in the middle. The neck and the head are black. The back and the wings are black, with numerous transverse white lines. Some of these lines are visible on the median rectrices, whilst others are uniform black, all turning to white towards the point. The breast, the lateral parts of the body, and the legs are yellowish, with broad, transverse, black bands; the belly and the under tail-coverts are uniform yellowish. The wing measures 34, the tarsus 10 centim.

"Mus. Paul. Est. de S. Paulo."

This is apparently based on a female of Crax pinima. The description of the plumage agrees almost exactly with that of specimen "c" in the British Museum Collection, described [cf. Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xxii. p. 447 (1893)] as "a second and apparently less mature specimen." The groove on the bill is probably accidental and of little importance.

## 16. ORTALIS CINEREICEPS (Cat. B. xxii. p. 515).

Ortalis struthopus Bangs, Pr. New Engl. Zoöl. Club, iii. p. 61 (1901) [Arch. de las Perlas, Bay of Panama].

The birds from the Archipelago de las Perlas are separated from typical O. cinereiceps (Gray) on account of their "very much smaller and weaker" foot and tarsus. The measurements given are as follows:—

				Middle toe and claw.
			Tarsus.	
			in.	in.
Ortalis s	struthopus,	ð	2.32	2.74
"	"	ያ	2.02	2.22
	cinereiceps,	ð	2.52	3.08
"		2		2:56

This difference in size (which, as shown by our series, has no real existence) is, we venture to think, hardly sufficient to entitle the birds from the Archipelago de las Perlas to specific or even subspecific rank.